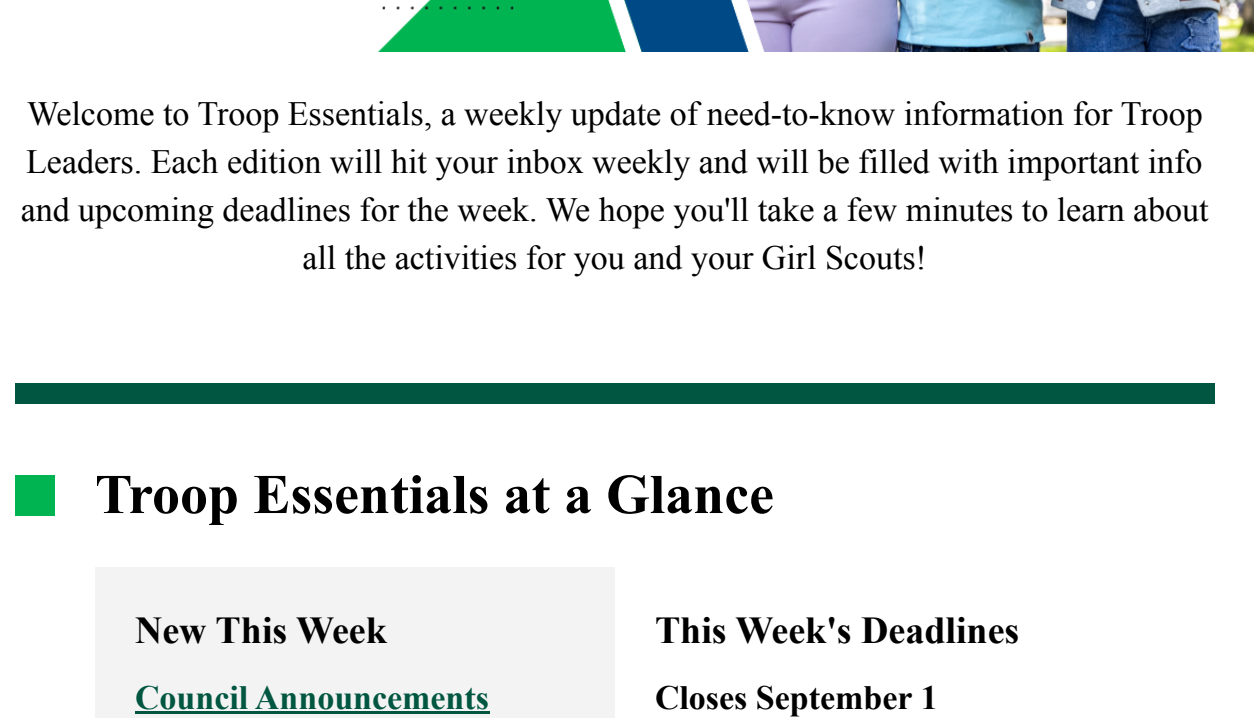


girlscouts of new mexico trails

August 31, 2026



Welcome to Troop Essentials, a weekly update of need-to-know information for Troop Leaders. Each edition will hit your inbox weekly and will be filled with important info and upcoming deadlines for the week. We hope you'll take a few minutes to learn about all the activities for you and your Girl Scouts!

Troop Essentials at a Glance

New This Week Council Announcements Program - Girl Scouts Love State Parks: Deadline Extended! - Hiking Adventure: Albuquerque - LEGO Club: Brick City Membership - Welcome to a New Girl Scout Year - Bank Statements Volunteers Fund Development La Tienda Product Program - Product Program Permission & Caregiver Responsibility Form Available Community Announcements - Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Previously Shared News	This Week's Deadlines Closes September 1 S'more to Learn: Volunteer Mentorship Closes September 4 Bubbles & Balloons: Daisy Liftoff Girl Scouts Love State Parks
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Every Girl Scout has a story to tell. Share the moments that define your Girl Scout experience – the challenges you overcame, the friendships you forged, the positive impact you made. These Mission Moments inspire us all and are vital in helping us tell the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails story on social media and in grant applications that support our mission.

[Share your Mission Moments here!](#)

Council Announcements

Girl Member of the Board of Directors Application Now Open

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails is seeking a passionate, thoughtful, and dedicated 9th, 10th, or 11th-grade Girl Scout to serve as a Girl Member on the Board of Directors .	Action Needed ☐ Apply here by 5:00 p.m. on September 18
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This is a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact while learning how organizations operate and how leaders work together to create positive change.

Her voice matters. Her leadership matters. Apply today!

Who else should get this information: Senior & Ambassador Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

The October-December Event Guide is Here!

Ready to plan your next adventure? The Oct-Dec Event Guide is now available online!	Action Needed ☐ Click here to view what's coming this fall!
Take a look at everything coming up this fall and secure your spot at your favorite events.	

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Program

Girl Scouts Love State Parks: Deadline Extended | September 12

Cost: \$5 includes patch & parking!	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on August 28 and celebrate nature, leadership, and outdoor adventure with your troop, friends, and family!
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This year's participating parks offer unique activities, including:

- Cerrillos Hills State Park:** Geology hikes, sand art and watercolor projects, and pollinator garden stewardship.
- Hyde Memorial State Park:** Forest ecology, nature journaling, flora printing, and an overnight star party.
- Rio Grande Nature Center State Park:** Guided birding hikes, bird feeder crafts, bosque ecology, and cottonwood conservation.
- Clayton Lake Park:** Dinosaur Slide Show at the Shelter, Dinosaur Tracks & Plant Identification, Campfire Tales & S'mores, and Biodegradable Pinecone Bird Feeders.
- NEW! Manzano Mountains State Park:** An overnight camping experience featuring ranger-led campsite setup, a breakfast cookout, nature journaling, and trail exploration.

A special event patch is included with registration.

Bonus for Girl Scouts! Parking fees will be **waived at all New Mexico State Parks during Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend**. To receive free parking, Girl Scouts must be wearing **Girl Scout gear**, such as a vest, sash, or Girl Scout apparel.

Visiting a different state park? You can still join the fun. Event patches will be available for purchase in **La Tienda**.

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Hiking Adventure Club: Albuquerque | September 26

Cost: \$5 per person	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on September 11
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Whether you're new to hiking or a trail veteran, this is the perfect opportunity to explore the unique landscapes of the Albuquerque area, including foothills, desert trails, and mountain views.

We'll explore local trails, enjoy beautiful vistas, and discover hidden gems of the area. Participants will have the chance to guide the group, pick routes, and share favorite spots—making this a participant-led adventure!

Bring your water bottle, comfortable shoes, and curiosity. We'll meet at the trailhead, plan our route together, and then set off to enjoy a memorable day in nature.

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

LEGO Club: Brick City | September 24

Cost: FREE	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on September 11
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It's time for our grand finale of **LEGO Club Powered by Chevron for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors!**

In this final session, we'll imagine and build an amazing city together. What does your dream community need? Cozy homes? Parks? Candy stores? Roller coasters? Secret underground tunnels? The possibilities are endless.

Each girl will create her own part of our giant imaginary city while building from home, turning individual creations into one shared world.

We'll also celebrate the summer with a special showcase of favorite builds, memorable moments, and creative masterpieces from the series.

Because when builders come together, amazing things happen.

Build. Imagine. Connect.

A virtual LEGO adventure powered by Chevron.

Who else should get this information: Junior, Cadette, Senior & Ambassador Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Check Out These Sessions for September 26th's Big Event!

Cost: \$25 per person	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on September 11
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Celebrate, connect, and get inspired at this exciting 110th year of *Girl Scouting in New Mexico! Honoring Our Roots, Growing Our Future* on September 26th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is fast approaching!

Don't miss out on sessions and activities like these:

- Girl Scout Resources on the web (website, VTK, myGS, Other stuff, including what's coming soon)
- What you need to know about Product Program, but didn't know to ask
- Intro to travel for volunteers and caregivers
- How to navigate High Awards, plus some updates on the process
- Troop Leader Talks – come and go with questions, ideas, or just take a moment to chat about anything troop-related
- All the places you can go! (travel for youth)
- Your path to High Awards (brainstorming and meeting requirements)
- Want to be a Pen Pal?
- How to build a management an effective website
- Project Management 101 – how to tackle big plans with small steps
- How to make GS swag (badge presentation options, troop shirts, etc.)
- High Award Hangout – a casual space to talk, brainstorm, and ask questions about Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards
- Messages Through Time (Earn parts of the Digital Leadership Badge)

Whether you are just beginning your Girl Scout journey or bringing years of experience as a youth member or adult volunteer, you will find fun hands-on activities, practical skills, and an unforgettable beginning to the year. This is your chance to learn, laugh, create, and leave recharged for an amazing year ahead. **Register today and be part of the celebration!**

Who else should get this information: Volunteers, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Membership

Welcome to a New Girl Scout Year!

As your troop gets back into the swing of meetings, take a moment to check your troop roster and make sure all memberships are current and information is up to date.	Action Needed ☐ Email Customer Care with any changes or updates.
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Need to:

- Change your troop meeting time or location?
- Open your troop to new members?
- Update other troop information?

Here's to another amazing year of **adventure, friendship, leadership, and Girl Scout fun!**

Who else should get this message: Troop and Service Unit Leadership
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Bank Statements

Bank Statements are due!	Action Needed ☐ Please email statements to Customer Care
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June, July, and August 2026 are due by September 30 to your membership staff person.

Who else should get this message: Troop and Service Unit Leadership
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

La Tienda News & Promotions

La Tienda Hours This Week

La Tienda is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday & Wednesday, & Thursday this week.	Action Needed ☐ Contact us with your La Tienda needs
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Back to school is the perfect time to stock up on Girl Scout and school essentials!

The La Tienda Shop has **memory books, notepads** and other fun and practical school essentials; we've got you covered!

Stop by the Girl Scout La Tienda Shop this September Promo to find items that will help your Girl Scout stay organized, inspired, and ready for a fantastic school year.

We can't wait to see you!

Who else should get this message: Troop leadership, adult volunteers, and Girl Scout caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Product Program

Product Program Permission & Caregiver Responsibility Form Available

As we gear up for another great troop year, there are a few forms that need to be completed. If your Girl Scout plans to participate in the 2026 Fall Product Program or the 2027 Cookie Program , a new Product Program Permission Form is required for the new Girl Scout year.	Action Needed ☐ Complete a Product Program Permission Form for each Girl Scout who plans to participate in either the 2026 Fall Product Program or the 2027 Cookie Program. Please submit the form as soon as possible.
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Who else should get this message: Girl Scout Caregivers
Contact: [Product Program Team](#)

Getting Started with the 2026 Fall Product Program

The Fall Product Program will begin soon. Training for volunteers will be available in gsLearn for Fall Product Program Troop Chairs starting Monday, August 17th if their	Action Needed ☐ Fall Product Program Chairs need to complete their forms to gain access to training
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[2026 Fall Product Program Troop Chair Agreement](#) is submitted. Click here to complete the form. The Fall Product Program begins Friday, September 25th.

Who else should get this message: Fall Product Program Troop Chairs
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

2026-2027 Product Program Calendar

Back to school means back to troop, and as your troop plans its Girl Scout year, remember to save these important product program dates.	Action Needed ☐ Share this calendar with other troop volunteers and families
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[Click here](#) to check out the full 2026-2027 Product Program calendar, including dates for the Fall Product Program and Cookie Program. Dates for Cookie Reward experiences will be released on Tuesday, January 26, 2027.

Who else should get this message: Troop Volunteers & Girl Scouts Families
Contact: [Product Program Team](#)

Community Announcements

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) annually offers 210 young Americans the opportunity to live with a host family and attend high school in Germany for an academic year.	Action Needed ☐ Apply here by December 1, 2026.
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- Fully-funded scholarship** sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress.
- Academic merit, as well as motivation, curiosity, and flexibility, are key components to a competitive application.
- Previous German language experience is not required.** Participants become fluent in German.
- Alumni can connect with a global network of other State Department program alumni upon completion of the program.

Students who are U.S. Citizens born between February 1, 2008 and August 1, 2011 with a GPA of 2.5 or higher are eligible to apply. Please find a **"Quick Facts" sheet** that provides additional information about the CBYX program.

Got a climate project idea? The City wants to fund it!

The City of Albuquerque's Sustainability Office is part of the Youth Climate Action Fund by Bloomberg Philanthropies, offering grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 for projects that are proposed, designed, and led by young people aged 15–24 right here in Albuquerque.	Action Needed ☐ Learn more and apply at www.cabq.gov/YouthClimateGrant .
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Projects should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and focus on one or more of our climate priorities — waste, transportation, and nature — helping us implement Albuquerque's climate action plans.

Projects are youth-led, but funds are disbursed through organizations, so it's a great chance for community groups to partner with young leaders. Applications close **Wednesday, September 2nd**.

Share Your Upcoming Events & Projects

Do you have an upcoming event or project that you'd like to share with all Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails troops/members?	Action Needed ☐ Contact us
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Send us your information to be included in future Troop Essentials emails!

Who else should get this message: Troop and Service Unit Leadership
Contact: [Katrina Montoya](#)

Previously Shared News

August 24, 2026 - The October-December Event Guide is Here! - Girl Member of the Board of Directors Application Now Open - Girl Scouts Love State Parks: New Park Added! - Bubbles & Balloons: Daisy Liftoff - Check out these sessions for September 26th's big event! - Product Program Permission & Caregiver Responsibility Form Available - Service Opportunity: Women's Circle of Wishes High Tea	August 17, 2026 - Dice & Card Leauge - Tabletop Guild
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Visit the [Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails website](#) for more information and upcoming events.

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